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Director of Central Intelligence



Terrorism Review

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25 July 1991

Counterterrorist Center

Approved for Release
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Terrorism Review **b3**

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Articles

Hizballah: Expanding Terrorist Capabilities

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Recent events in Lebanon have resulted in some political and military setbacks for Hizballah but have not prevented the organization from improving its ability to conduct terrorist operations.

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Hizballah: Expanding Terrorist Capabilities

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Iran and Syria also are attempting to gain greater control over Hizballah terrorist activity that would conflict with their foreign policy goals.

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Facing Increased Domestic and Foreign Pressure
Hizballah—responsible for over a dozen terrorist attacks that killed more than 300 people since the early 1980s—has been preoccupied over the past year with protecting its political and military equities in Lebanon. The organization is being pressed by the Lebanese Government to disarm, to join the political process, and to end its anti-Israeli resistance operations—moves that would undermine the group's militant agenda and ability to recruit young Shia extremists for its terrorist apparatus. Hizballah insists that its status as a "resistance" group, rather than a militia, entitles it to retain its arms, and it has not complied with Lebanese Government deadlines to relinquish its weapons. The Hizballah Leadership Council publicly announced that "no one, not even the Lebanese authority," will be allowed to disarm Hizballah.

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Hizballah's militant agenda also has been threatened by Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) attempts to extend its control in Lebanon, forcing Hizballah to redeploy some forces. Hizballah almost certainly maintains a sizable underground presence in Beirut.

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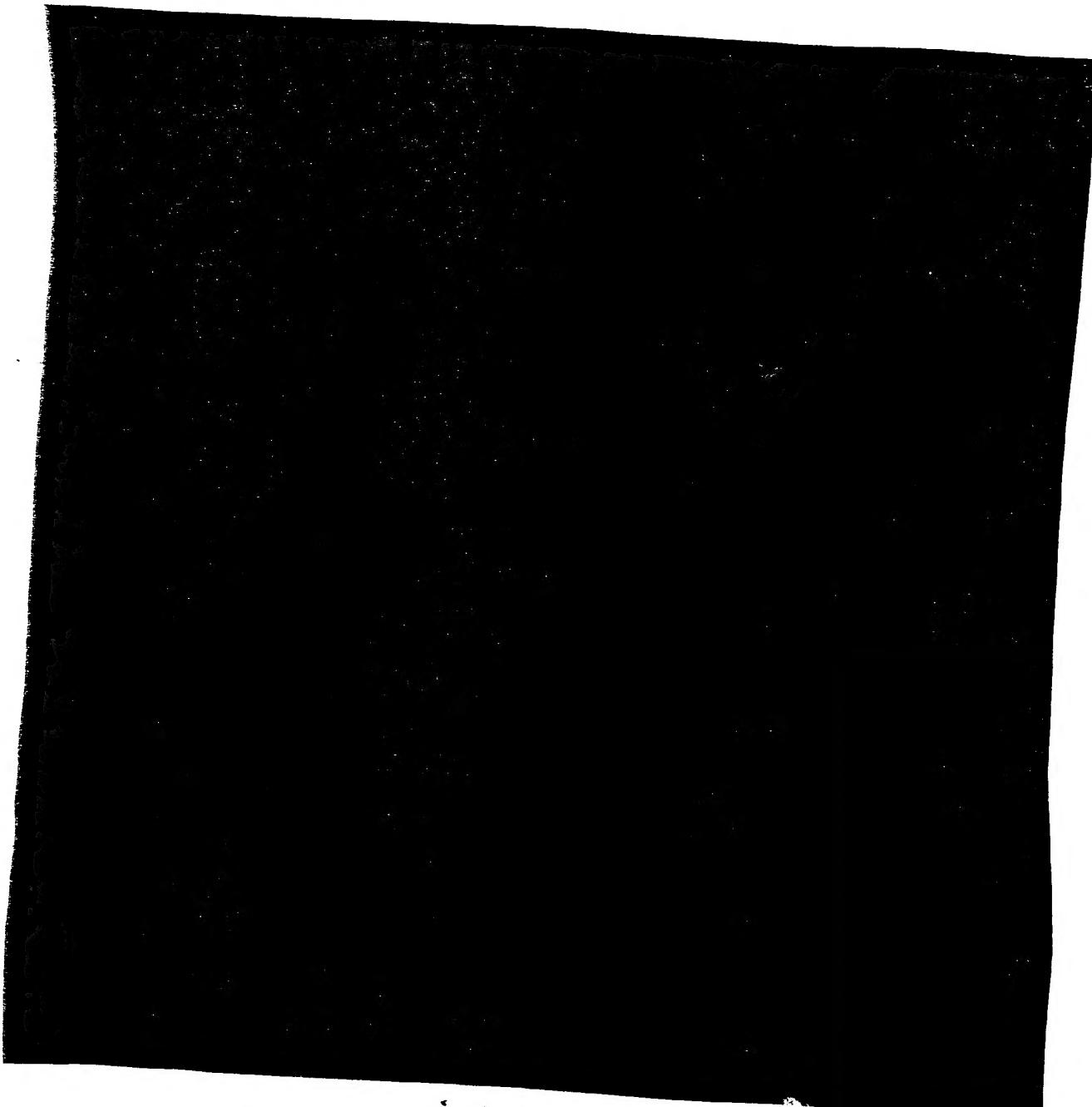
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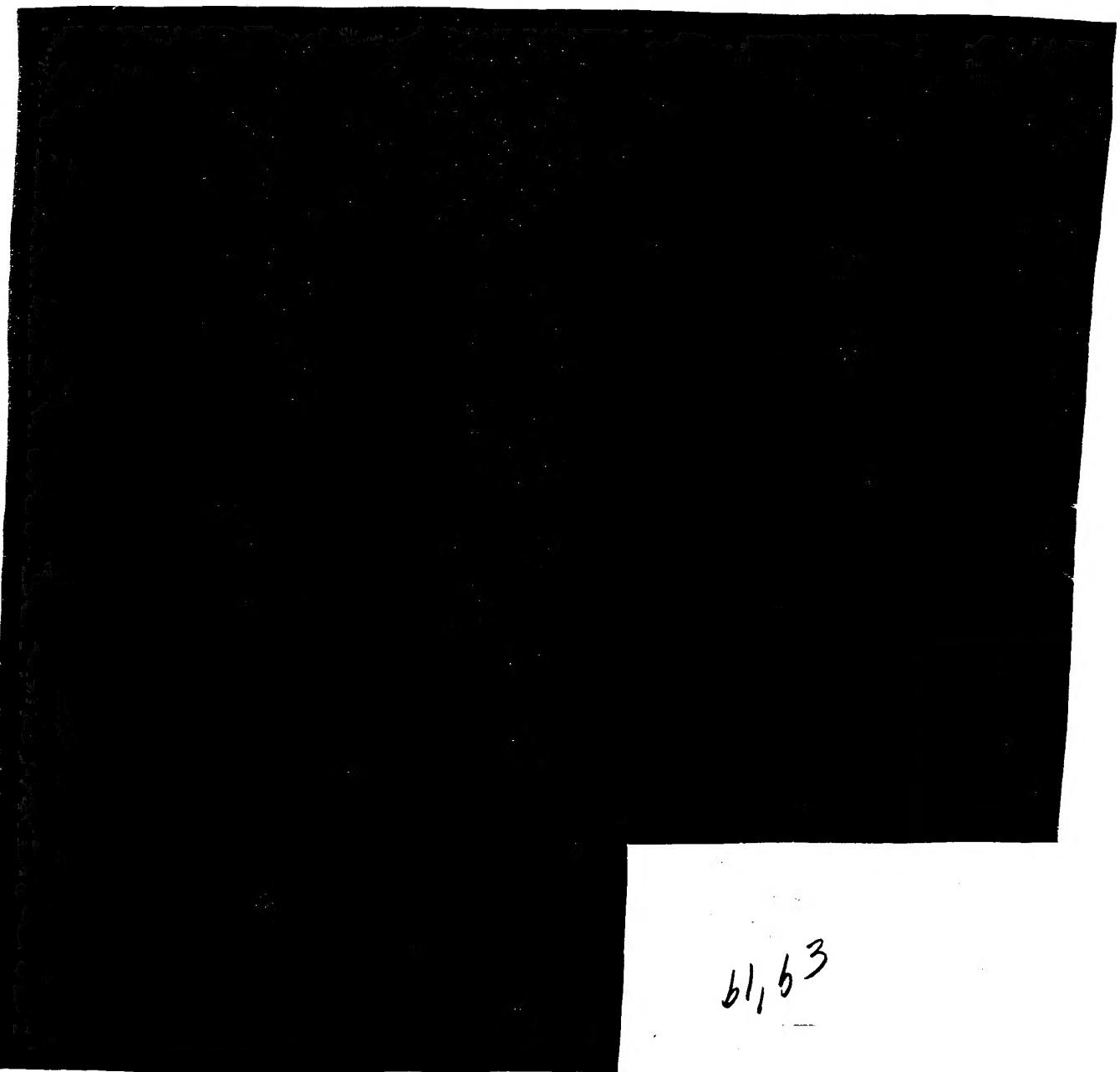
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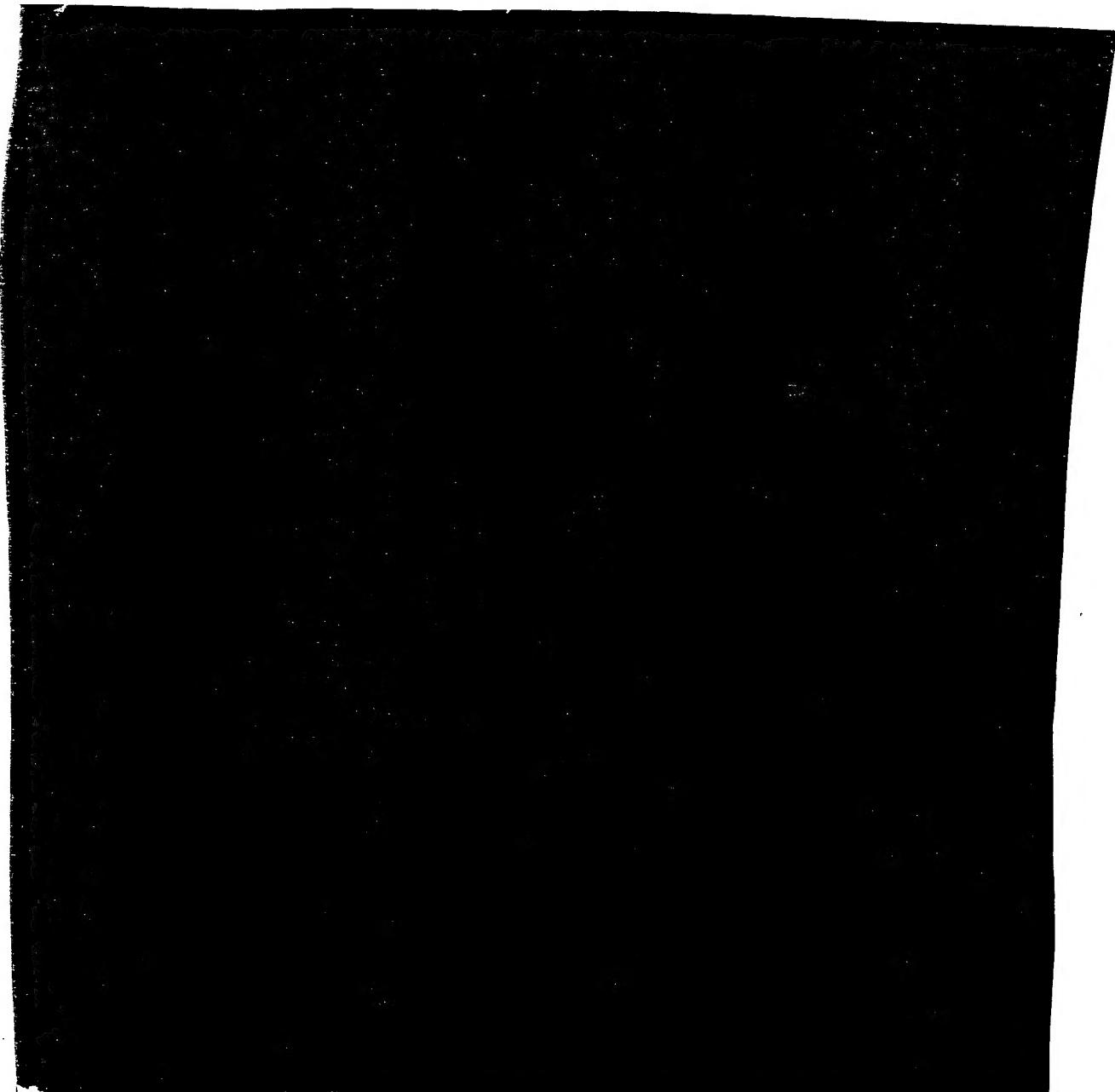
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Highlights

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Europe

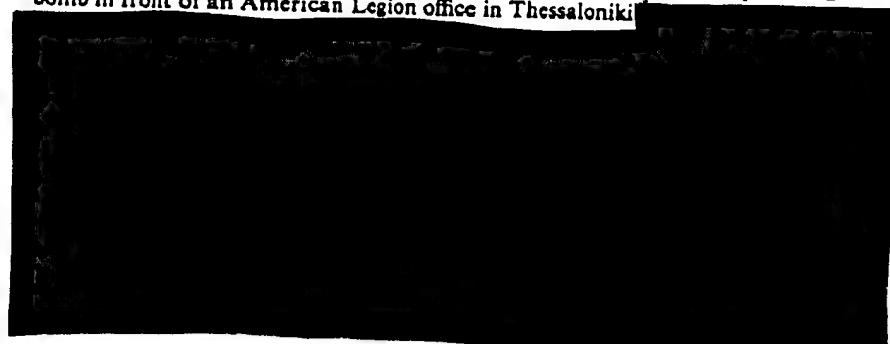
Significant Developments

Greece

Terrorist Bombings in Thessaloniki

A [redacted] group calling itself People's Uprising claimed responsibility for a bombing at the offices of the German airline Lufthansa in Thessaloniki, Greece, on 13 July. Three days later, an anonymous caller telephoned a local newspaper claiming that another unknown group called May 36 had planted a bomb in front of an American Legion office in Thessaloniki.

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Spain

Catalan Separatist Group Disbands

On 15 July, the Catalan terrorist group Terra Lliure (Free Land) announced its decision to give up its armed struggle for Catalan independence and disband. Terra Lliure's leadership declared that the group will join the Republican Left of Catalonia—a legitimate political party espousing Catalonian independence—in an effort to achieve its goals through nonviolent, political means.

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Middle East

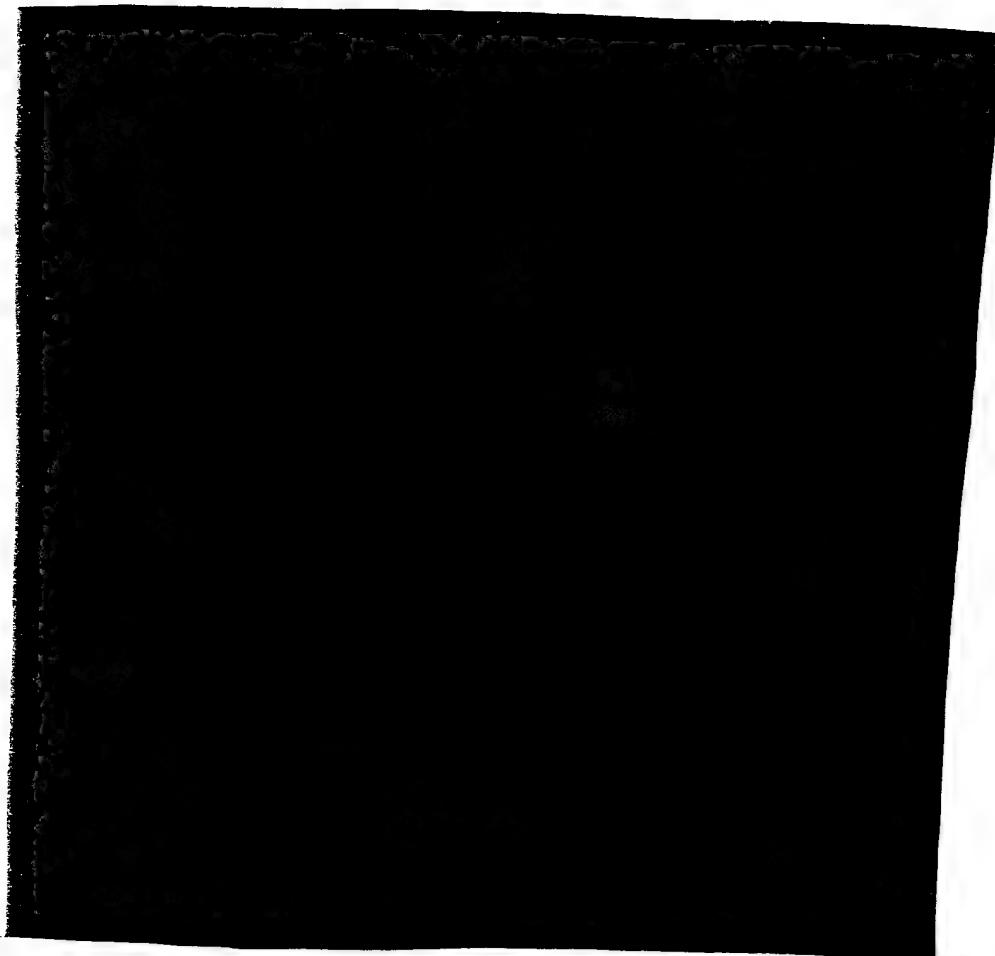
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Lebanon

Hizballah Threatens German, US Hostages

A group calling itself Holy Warriors for Freedom—probably a covername for a Hizballah faction—publicly threatened on 24 July to harm two German hostages in Lebanon unless information was received within 48 hours on the condition of two Hizballah terrorists imprisoned in Germany. Abbas Hammadi—convicted in 1987 for the abduction of the two German hostages—had been stabbed in prison the week before the threat was issued. German courts also recently had upheld the life sentence of Mohammed Hammadi—convicted for the murder of a US Navy diver during the hijacking of TWA Flight 847 in 1985. Bonn publicly announced that the Hammadi's were in good condition and would be treated like any other prisoners. [REDACTED] b3

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The Islamic Jihad Organization—a Hizballah faction holding two US and two British hostages—on 18 July publicly threatened "grave consequences" against the United States if the Hammadi brothers were not released. The communique—IJO's first public statement in almost two years—was accompanied by a photo of US hostage Terry Anderson. [redacted] b3

Hizballah may have issued the threats in the hope of derailing ongoing hostage-related negotiations between Tehran and Tel Aviv. Although a German or US hostage might be harmed, Hizballah is more likely to retaliate by attacking German interests elsewhere. In our judgment, harming a hostage in Lebanon at this time almost certainly would incur a serious Iranian and Syrian backlash that Hizballah would prefer to avoid. [redacted] b3

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The Terrorism Diary for September ~~63~~

Below is a compendium of September dates of known or conceivable significance to terrorists around the world. Our inclusion of a date or event should not by itself be construed to suggest that we expect or anticipate a commemorative terrorist event. ~~63~~

1 September 1939 *West Germany, Europe. Antiwar Day (anniversary of Nazi invasion of Poland).*

1 September 1969 *Libya. Coup overthrows monarchy.*

September 1970 *Palestinians. During this month, the Jordanian Army drove the Palestinian guerrillas out of the country because they would not stop attacking Israel from Jordanian soil; in response, the largest group, Fatah, established the Black September Organization, best known for its attack on Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympics.*

1 September 1981 *Central African Republic. Coup brings Kolonba regime to power.*

2 September *South Africa. Settlers' Day.*

2 September 1945 *Vietnam. Independence Day.*

3 September 1944 *Belgium. Liberation Day.*

3 September 1969 *Vietnam. Death of Ho Chi Minh.*

3 September 1971 *Qatar. Independence Day.*

3 September 1982 *Peru. Death of Sendero Luminoso leader Edith Lagos.*

4 September 1970 *Chile. Election of President Salvador Allende.*

4 September 1980 *Iran, Iraq. Date Iraq charges Iran started war.*

5 September 1960 *Senegal. Declaration of republic.*

6 September 1973 *Swaziland. Independence Day.*

7 September 1882 *Brazil. Independence Day.*

8 September 1918 *Lithuanian SSR. National Day (beginning of independence from Russia during period between world wars).*

8 September 1982 *India. Death of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, "the Lion of Kashmir."*

9 September 1991 *First full day of Rosh Hashana (Jewish New Year).*

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9 September 1944 *Bulgaria*. Liberation Day (national day).

9 September 1948 *North Korea*. National Day.

9 September 1976 *China*. Death of Mao Zedong.

10 September 1798 *Belize*. National Day (Battle of St. George's Bay).

10 September 1922 *Turkey*. Founding of Turkish Communist Party.

10 September 1974 *Guinea-Bissau*. Republic Day (independence from Portugal).

11 September *Philippines*. Birthday of former President Ferdinand Marcos.

11 September 1952 *Ethiopia*. Return of Eritrea from Italian and British control under UN resolution.

11 September 1973 *Chile*. Coup overthrowing Allende by military junta led by Augusto Pinochet.

12 September 1974 *Ethiopia*. National Day (commemorates overthrow of Haile Selassie).

14 September 1982 *Lebanon*. Assassination of Phalangist leader and Lebanese President-elect Bashir Gemayel.

15 September 1821 *Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua*. Independence Day.

15 September 1982 *Lebanon*. Israeli invasion of Muslim West Beirut.

16 September 1810 *Mexico*. Independence Day.

16 September 1975 *Papua New Guinea*. Independence Day.

17 September 1978 *United States, Israel, Egypt*. Signing of Camp David accords.

17 September 1982 *Lebanon*. Massacre in Shatila and Sabra refugee camps (17 September Organization takes its name from this event).

18 September 1991 *Jewish World*. Yom Kippur (day of atonement).

18 September 1810 *Chile*. Independence Day.

19 September 1983 *St. Kitts and Nevis*. Independence Day.

21 September 1964 *Malta*. Independence Day.

21 September 1981 *Belize*. Independence Day.

21 September 1985 *Philippines*. Militia disperses demonstrators in Escalante, killing 20 (dubbed "Escalante massacre" by opposition).

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21 September 1989 *Saudi Arabia.* Execution of 16 Kuwaiti shias for hajj bombings (sparked anti-Saudi retaliatory attacks).

22 September 1960 *Mali.* Independence Day (proclamation of republic).

23 September 1907 *New Zealand.* Dominion Day.

23 September 1932 *Saudi Arabia.* Unification of the kingdom.

23 September 1964 *Saudi Arabia.* National Day.

24 September 1979 *Ghana.* Inauguration of the republic.

25 September 1964 *Mozambique.* Revolution Day.

25 September 1984 *Egypt, Jordan.* Resumption of diplomatic relations.

26 September 1962 *North Yemen.* Proclamation of republic (anniversary of revolution).

26 September 1962 *South Yemen.* National Day.

27 September *Spain.* Basque National Party Day.

28 September 1970 *Egypt.* Death of Jamal Abd al-Nasir.

30 September 1965 *Indonesia.* Abortive Communist coup.

30 September 1966 *Botswana.* Independence Day.

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~~Secret~~**Chronology of Terrorism—1991** *b3*

Below are described selected noteworthy foreign and international events involving terrorists or the use of terrorist tactics. These events have occurred or come to light since our last issue. In some cases, the perpetrators and their motivations may not be known. Events and developments that have already been described elsewhere in this publication are not included. *b3*

Europe**17 June**

Northern Ireland: Gunmen shoot and kill a part-time soldier as he arrives at the Tyre Depot in Belfast. The Provisional Irish Republican Army (PIRA) is responsible. *b3*

18 June

Turkey: Terrorists bomb an iron and steel company office, a Turkish Government store, and an employer's union headquarters, all in the Istanbul area, causing no injuries. The People's Revolutionary Pioneers, a faction of Dev Sol, claimed responsibility. *b3*

19 June

Turkey: Individuals bomb the Turkish Government Union Office in Ankara after subduing two night watchmen. *b1, b3*

19-20 June

Turkey: Terrorists bomb two State Highway buildings, the Ministry of Finance Accounting building, a State Water Company office, and the Union of Public-Sector Employers building, all in the Istanbul area, injuring two policemen and causing significant damage. Dev Sol claimed responsibility. *b3*

22 June

Italy: Authorities deactivate a bomb found in a satchel hanging from the front of a travel agency located in the Hotel Commodore in central Rome. The Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA) is suspected. *b3*

23 June

Spain: A car bomb explodes in front of the National Police building in the Madrid district of San Blas, injuring nine persons, including five policemen. *b3*

24 June

Greece: An explosive device injures six policemen patrolling in the Athens suburb of Exarchia. The Revolutionary People's Struggle (ELA) and Revolutionary Organization 1 May claimed responsibility. *b3*

25 June

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26 June

Northern Ireland: Two bombs injure 20 persons, including two police officers, outside the Queen Street station in Belfast. Two suspects, possibly PIRA members, were detained. b3

France: Five explosions damage bank and telecommunications buildings in Ajaccio, causing slight damage and no injuries. A group known as Resistenza claimed responsibility. b3

Turkey: One pipe bomb damages a bank in Istanbul, while another is defused at a separate branch. No group has claimed responsibility. b3

Spain: A parcel bomb explodes as it passes through a security scanner in a Seville prison, killing two people and injuring 30 others. ETA claimed responsibility. b3

1 July

Spain: A parcel bomb kills two policemen and injures one attempting to defuse it at the Transportes Posadas Company in Madrid. ETA claimed credit for the incident. b3

6 July

Italy: ETA hurls a molotov cocktail at a Spanish tourist bus parked near the Colosseum in central Rome. b3

Middle East

24 May

West Bank: Unknown individuals strangle an alleged Palestinian collaborator near Ram Allah. b3

27 May

West Bank: Unidentified assailants stab and kill a young woman suspected of being a collaborator in Burqin. b3

30 May

West Bank: Three masked individuals murder an alleged Palestinian collaborator in Hebron. b3

1 June

Gaza Strip: Masked assailants murder a prostitute suspected of being a collaborator. b3

4 June

West Bank: Four masked individuals shoot and kill an alleged collaborator from Hebron. The victim was accused of helping Israeli authorities arrest a young boy for throwing stones. b3

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7 June

Gaza Strip: Unknown assailants murder two alleged collaborators from the Al-Muznazi Refugee Camp.

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Latin America

3 July

Nicaragua: A Canadian priest is killed in Managua by two individuals. Police arrested one of the attackers.

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4 July

Bolivia: A bomb explodes at an electrical tower owned by a US-Canadian firm in La Paz. The Tupak Katari Guerrilla Army, an anti-US Marxist group, claimed responsibility.

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5 July

Chile: Unknown individuals set fire to the United Trading Company warehouse in Santiago, causing minor damage. The Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front claimed responsibility.

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Chile: An explosive device thrown at the office of the US transport firm DHL Express in Santiago injures a security guard. The FPMR claimed responsibility.

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6 July

Panama: A bomb explodes at the radio station KW Continente in Panama City, causing heavy damage.

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Chile: The Lautaro Youth Movement (MJL) claims responsibility for shooting and wounding two policemen in Santiago. MJL used automatic weapons and a rocket.

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7 July

Chile: A Mormon chapel is bombed in the Penalolen sector of Santiago. The blast broke several windows and slightly injured one person. The FPMR claimed responsibility.

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8 July

Chile: Unknown individuals bomb a Mormon chapel in Coquimbo.

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South/East Asia

15 June

Pakistan: A hidden, time-delayed device explodes and destroys the Khyber Agency Hotel and an adjoining shop in Landi Kotal. Eight people were killed and 18 others were injured.

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19 June

Sri Lanka: Suspected members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) attack a vehicle belonging to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Northern Sri Lanka. There were no injuries.

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21 June

Sri Lanka: Authorities arrest 19 members of the LTTE suspected in the 21 June bombing of the Defense Ministry facilities.

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28 June

Philippines: Authorities deport Saad Kadhim, an Iraqi national and the surviving suspect in the 21 January bombing of the Thomas Jefferson Library in Makati.

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Africa

20 June

South Africa: Three armed men attack and assassinate an African National Congress coordinator near his home in suburban Cape Town.

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